
Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Lntgrandpa@aol.com [mailto:Lntgrandpa@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 8:27 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020

Stephanie,

I keep getting mail on the project and have been missing the meetings lately.

I think, I met you at Red Wing, Mn and expressed my "fine with me". About a year or so ago.

My property is on west side of County rd. 6 Blvd. 40463 is the mail box # or fire #. Located between Goodhue and Zumbrota bordering the old RRR bed to the North.

You at that time would send me a map of that area. My area is not in flood plain.

I-262-001

It appears this area is not being considered, as I hoped it would. Please respond if possible as I want to be a part of this project as I would in positive mode. My email address: Lntgrandpa@aol.com

Louis Torkelson
826 44th ave. NW
Rochester, Mn

507-273-9038

Download the [AOL Classifieds Toolbar](#) for local deals at your fingertips.

I-262-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

July 24, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808
Wabasha County/Zumbro Twnshp
T.109N.-R.14W

Dear Ms. Strength,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We had the pleasure of meeting you on June 16, 2009, in Plainview, Minnesota, at the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting. We provided you with a packet of information and our concerns regarding the route proposal at that time affecting our land and area. The route has changed yet again since then, but still directly impacts our parcel.

I-263-001 | We will be referring to the CAPX route number B95. I have enclosed the maps that show this route and our property.

This route lines along our northern border, which will impact our farmed white pine, red pine and black walnut. They grow up to that border. There is no established corridor here. We would lose that timber and its value, and all future plantings.

I-263-002 | We have marked the spot where we are planning our residence. This was shared with the CapX routing team. This route would negate our ability to build there. It would devastate the aesthetics and depreciate substantially our property value.

I-263-003 | Please note that the line marked T-282 a PRIVATE drive. The Zumbro Township surrendered responsibility for this road in 2005. We have done all maintenance.

I-263-004 | Our parcel of land is part of the Richard Dorer Memorial State Hardwood Forest, and has an active DNR forestry management plan. It was started in the 1970s, and was updated in 2002. In addition to our tree farm, there is a blend of native soft and hardwoods throughout the property. It is habitat for deer, pheasant in the fields and cedars, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and fox, to name a few. Implementation and reintroduction of native prairie and woodland plant species is underway. We have a small pond which

I-263-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

I-263-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line, as well as potential impacts to the aesthetic quality and land use of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-005 |
I-263-006

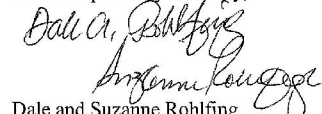
assists native amphibian/reptile populations, and includes our attempt to restore the wood duck population in our area.

Fragmentation of forested land and wildlife habitat is evident with this proposed route. We ask that you utilize existing roads/established corridors south of this route. Also, the southern I-90 to LaCrosse option would deter disruption of the McCarthy Lake Management/Weaver Dunes areas along and near the Alma route.

We strongly urge you to support the efforts and expenditures made to promote healthy forest and wildlife, and recreation on and near our property. We are doing what our state and country asks of us. We ask that you promote the importance of what conservation means, for the sake of future generations.

Thank you, as always, for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours respectfully and truly,


Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Tree farmers/ land stewards

Enclosures

I-263-005

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process as well as potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-263-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



ROHLFING

June 16, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808

Dear Ms. Strength,

Thank you for coming to Plainview, MN for the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting.

We own and operate a tree farm in Minnesota, Wabasha County, Zumbro Township: T.109N.-R.14W. The northern most route proposal touches our property.

This route disregards Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, of the route permit criteria, by fragmenting property and natural/critical habitat. It transects a state designated canoe route, another tree farm, and is the closest to a registered bald eagles nest of all the northern routes crossing the Zumbro River.

This route would devastate the aesthetics, and alter the river bottoms and the riparian ecosystem of this region within the Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

We ask that you please reinforce the use of existing corridors, road, rail and energy lines, when choosing the final route, pursuant to the above mentioned MN Statute.

Enclosed is a letter sent to Tom Hillstrom of Xcel Energy in April of 2009 with specific impacts of the route, area map, and photos.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Droh124057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

February 27, 2009

RE: CAPX added route 2/23/09
Rohlfing 50 acres
T.109N.-R.14W.

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

Thank you for coming to Zumbro Falls last evening during the storm warning... We hope you got home safely after the long meeting.

We were shocked, actually, to see the proposed CAPX route change yet again, now diagonally across our 50 acre Tree Farm. We were unaware of this change until the meeting. This change will directly impact our parcel by plowing through the center of our property with the 150 foot swath. This would devastate our Tree Farm which consists of black walnut, white and red pine. Part of the route is directly over our proposed home site. It is closer to a registered Eagles nest and directly crosses an area of dense eagle activity. It interferes with our land stewardship plan with the Lake City Forestry Office.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, we ask that you follow the Route Permit Criteria, utilizing existing rail, road, energy and property lines. This most recent route proposal will negatively impact our property from economical, ecological, residential, aesthetic and agricultural standpoints.

This route change is difficult to understand, considering the letter and photos we sent to Mr. Hillstrom January 2. We would be happy to provide you with that information. As per your encouragement, we have made a call to Mr. Hillstrom this morning. Our neighborhood group will be meeting shortly to discuss alternate routes, and communication with you.

Again, we thank you for your presentation and look forward to further dialog with regard to this project. Please note that we are forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Hillstrom, and Matthew Langan of the DNR, who received our previous mailing.

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing

Drohl24057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

April 2, 2009

Mr. Thomas Hillstrom
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting
Mr. Grant Stevenson
Senior Project Manager
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall (MP 8A)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mazeppa/Zumbro-Hyde
Citizens/Landowners
c/o Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dear Mr. Hillstrom and Mr. Stevenson,

We are citizens and land owners of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, Wabasha County. We are responding to the most recent route change proposals for the CAPX2020 transmission line. These routes were displayed at the community meeting in Zumbro Falls at the Zumbro Community Church on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Mr. Grant Stevenson attended and spoke to the group at that meeting.

We would like to express our concerns and address them for you with respect to the Public Utilities Commission Minnesota Administrative Rules, 7849.5910 "Factors Considered".

Factor A. "effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services" The new proposals appear to have no less effect on settlement. There would be, however, increased effects on recreation for the following reasons: 1- this stretch of the Zumbro River is a designated Minnesota state canoe route, with one of the two most popular routes being from the Zumbro dam to Zumbro Falls, according to the DNR. 2-this stretch of the Zumbro River is used for other water recreation, camping, fishing, sport and hunting by individuals and patrons of local camps/businesses. Aesthetics will clearly be impacted by the 150-foot transmission towers, the transmission lines, and the 150-foot clear cut needed for their maintenance. Many of the area's recreational activities will be adversely affected.

Factor C. "effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining" Major economic impacts include the following: 1- Steeplechase Ski Area. This four-season resort relies heavily on the present landscape and aesthetics for visitor use of the ski hills themselves and the 5-mile trail network used for hiking, biking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. Of special consideration are the specifics of downhill ski terrain specifications, leaving only the north half of the property for expansion potential. This business contributes to the local economy through employment, operating expenditures, and contribution to the activity of other local businesses. 2- Two working Tree Farms, sections 15 and 16. The white pine, red pine,

and black walnut planted on these two properties represent years of invested labor and expense that cannot be compensated. The actual monetary value of these cannot be realized until tree maturity and harvest. The clear cut for the transmission lines and the required maintenance would also prevent further plantings and potential return on the farms. These farms also utilize local businesses for tree and equipment maintenance. 3- The value of any property within sight of the transmission lines will be significantly reduced, as much of the value of rural property in the area derives from the remote setting.

Factor D. “effects on archaeological and historic resources” Between Wabasha County 70 and south to South Troy, there are historical points of interest. 1- The historic wagon trail north of County 7 and west of Hwy 63. 2-Troy/ South Troy. This includes the old Dale cemetery, the old South Troy town site near the existing cemetery and schoolhouse, the South Troy Church, and the grave of Frederick Ingalls, the infant son of Caroline and Charles Ingalls and brother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Historical Society has agreed to enter this site onto their Historical Society List. There is consideration for a historical marker, according to Mr. Allen Whipple, local historian.

Factor E. “effects on natural environment, including effects on air and water quality, resources and flora and fauna” Environmental effects and conservation concerns of the transmission line and its 150-foot clear cut are numerous. Following are a few examples: 1- This land is part of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. Only a small portion is state owned. It was intended to help preserve the river and the land around it. 2- The recently proposed routes would eradicate a significant acreage of forest land, which is also extremely susceptible to erosion. This has multiple implications: a- decreased natural habitat for native wildlife species which impacts food sources, nesting and protective options which then results in reproductive compromise and increase predation susceptibility. b- Increased erosion which contributes to alteration of native flora allowing invasive species, ie. buckthorn, and potential for alteration of shading and temperature fluctuations in the river. c- decreased sources of CO2 absorption and potential sources of carbon credits 3- This part of the Zumbro River has a designated “catch and release” regulation for smallmouth bass. This fishery depends on high water quality, which will be damaged by disturbing the surrounding forests. 4- The river crossing on the most northern route proposal is in close proximity to a registered eagles nest. There is dense eagle activity north of Wabasha County 7 and the green bridge.

Factors H. “use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines and agricultural field boundaries” & **J.** “ use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-ways” Parts of the most recent route have transected property and do not appear to incorporate the need to parallel or utilize existing rights-of-way, survey lines, and existing transportation and transmissions lines. The primary beneficiaries of the transmission lines are the cities of Rochester and LaCrosse, both of which are serviced by existing transportation rights-of-way, ie: US Highway 52 and Interstate 90. These corridors are the logical routes for the transmission lines.

Factor L. “costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route” Several of the proposed routes have many corners and angles that add to the cost of construction, and these same routes require significant timber removal expenses. Routes following highways will have fewer corners and timbered areas. Utilizing the angle of US Highway 52 to Oronoco and Interstate 90, rather than using the northern routes, will reduce the length of the lines. These routes will also be constructed primarily on farmland, which does not need to be cleared initially or in the future. The timbered areas on the northern routes would need regular clearing or spraying, both of which carry monetary and ecological costs.

We sincerely hope you consider the above mentioned factors, and choose alternately a more appropriate route which has less impact on an area that has minimal existing damage. We also suggest that you consider route proposals closer to Route 52 and Interstate 90, and the cities that this project will benefit: Rochester and LaCrosse.

We thank you for these considerations, and look forward to future contact.

Respectfully submitted,

The Citizens of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, and other interested parties.

Enclosures

Cc:

Bob Cupit, PUC MN

Matt Langan, MN DNR

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

⊗ All signatures on file with CAPX routing team.

Delivering electricity you can rely on

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview MD June 16 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

ⓧ Please refer to
all enclosed letter
information
thank you.

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:36 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: mlbarthel@comcast.net [mailto:mlbarthel@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 11:26 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Until 2 years ago I was not aware of the beauty southern Minnesota offered. My daughter went to school at Winona State College from 2002 through 2007, and we always enjoyed the drive from the Twin Cities, seeing the bluffs that you could experience from HWY 61. But it was not until a good friend of mine bought land in the Houston, MN area that I saw the deep, lush beauty that the Root River area had to offer.

Our friends bought land in Sather Valley a few years ago. We spent the weekend there, just two weeks ago, and had a chance to be part of nature. We could see how they had fallen in love with all the beauty nature has to offer from the hills, spring fed streams, agriculture and some of the most active wildlife I have seen. There was everything from trout filled streams, deer, coyote, wild turkey, birds that came in every shape, size and color and even the mooing of the cows from across the fields. We sat by the fire after dark and listen to mother nature talking (coyotes were calling from hill to hill) and watched the stars flutter in the night. (And all without a visit from the infamous state bird, the mesquite).

During the day we had a chance to see the beauty of the area with a tube ride down the Root River. After spending the weekend we could see why they decided to move down south to live in Sather Valley.

That was just two weeks ago. Today I heard for the first time about the proposed CAPX2020 that could literally go right over the farm house my friends currently live in. I never professed to be a Rhode Scholar, and have no clue on just how much damage a project like this would have on humans and animal life; but, I have been near these large power lines and have heard the noise they generate and know they do not belong in any scenic corridors that the state of Minnesota has to offer. As citizens, and/or leaders, in our community it should be our responsibility to preserve the beauty of the area for years to come. We already have an Interstate road systems designed to move vehicles efficiently across the nation. If it is necessary to transfer power across the country, why would we not use the same paths to efficiently transfer power from point A to point B?

Please reconsider any notion to interfere with the natural habitat of the area. I am sure if you are honest with yourself, you know the impact is severe to many families, farmers, nature lovers as well as the health of humans and wildlife. There has got to be better alternatives!!

Sincerely,

Larry Barthel
Maple Grove, MN

I-264-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-264-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise and to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-264-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-264-001
I-264-002

I-264-003

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020
Attachments: August 1.doc; Capx2020.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:07 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Fw: Capx2020

I-265-001

Stephanie,
I feel I need to send this to you. I have been to all 3 meetings but this last one was very difficult to make ----we arrived at 8:00 the meeting was from 5:00pm-8:00pm. This is our milking time on our farm and may of our neighbors. They were already packed up and leaving. Yes 3 were willing to stay and talk but everything was packed up. If this power line is going through our land do you think they could at least accommodate to our work hours? This line looks to be on our front lawn, my kids will be mowing lawn around it!

Please read my attachments and file them.
Thank you
Carrie Kerfeld

I-265-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

August 1, 2009

To the Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to state how disappointed I am to hear that you are considering putting your high power lines on our property and in our beautiful landscapes here in central Minnesota. We are in Section . We live between McRose and Freeport.

Do you realize that we have many vacationers in this part? We have Big Birch Lake right here that people come down to visit on their vacations. We have bald eagles, we'll see as many as 5 at one time, there are 2 that fly above our house every morn and evening, we have frogs that sing to us nightly, the tree look wonderful on our hills especially in the fall. We love our wildlife and we abide by the ways of keeping them here and safe. By our house, and down the road we have up to @ 30 deer and countless turkeys eating at times in the evening and early mornings for years. We love watching these animals, there are people who drive by here just to see them. They eat right up to the edge of the field, close to County Road 17. We enjoy this tremendously, we are the farmers of central Minnesota. We care for our land. We care for our farm animals, they are our lively hood. We have cows in our pasture, right on the south side of Co. Rd. 17. Beach Valley Rd. comes to a T at this pasture. There are trees, hills, valleys & a waterway, and cows that feed off the land, with our farm in the back ground. This is a road that people go down to their homes or to their cabins. They comment on how they enjoy this picture perfect look. They stop to take pictures of our land!

We need you to understand the affects it will have on us individuals. We need your help to keep these lines off our property so we have pure nature out here. We need you to keep these lines on I94, where it will just blend in with all the other utilities, road signs, industries and noises. Please stay on our side, we are a few people who need you to understand our position.

You already have the state cut in half with the interstate, the state owns this and has the right to use it for a straight line from Monticello to Fargo. MNdot does not own the freeway. Wobegon bikers do not buy a license to keep up the trail, we have talked to bikers that use the trail and they use a different stretch more often because it's more scenic. So to keep the power line away from the interstate because of the Wobegon Trail is not a reasonable excuse. Snowmobilers use the trail to get to each town faster, if they want beauty they take another route. You can ask any biker or snowmobiler. There are fewer homes to go around next to the interstate. Please check this out.

To fight this is like having another part time job. This is probably a reason why you are not hearing from a lot of farmers. We are busy all year around, up to 16 hours per day. We want to be home with our families, we are working from before sunrise to after sunset. We don't have the time to be with you watching each step and fighting each person who wants to put these lines on our private property. Most feel that no matter what they say or do won't make a difference, feeling that you already made your choice of routes. We have put a tremendous amount of time and money into our land and buildings. We have future generations coming to live and work here. They would feel cheated to know that you did not think of them. If we lose this battle, we would appreciate an on going compensation for us now and for our grandkids. We need to know you appreciate what we are doing for you. We want this stretch of line on I94.

Thank You, Carrie Kerfeld and family

To whom it may concern:

July 25, 2008

I am writing about the project on the high power line "CapX 2020". I have went to your two recent meeting held in the Melrose area. I hope that you will look at this project closer to see if you can eliminate going over farm land. We are scared of the consequences, the noise, the threats it entitles, the beauty it may kill around it, if it be the birds, animals or people. We enjoy pure nature, the beauty of the skies, land and sounds. It looks like it will be affecting us dramatically - Cutting the trees down, ruining homes, lakes and pastures (shelter for our cows and other animals). We chose to live on a farm in the country to hear and see the land and to take care of it for future generations.

If you choose to go through farm land, do you think our land will be worth as much with these power lines? We need to consider the future generations on this land, such as a loan on the land with rental payments, free electricity or get paid a certain % for each post on their land per month now and generations to come. We need to have a contract; we need it in writing for every acre it affects, post or no post. Year after year, we need to know we are appreciated in having this on our land.

I would like you to challenge this group to go to schools on this route and have a question/answer time. Also challenge this group to go to the extension office to get a list of farmers who are willing to give tours of their farms. More young families are health conscience, doing preventive health. Companies like this need to help support healthy ways of living.

If it comes by our place we will have personal contact with it 24 hours a day. I am a stay at home Mom of 5 children, school age and younger. We're here all the time. Our future generation will be here and possibly die here - which is true for many farmers.

I would like to give you a taste of what it would be like for CapX 2020 going through our land and possible farmstead. Depending on what time of year it will be put up, it will affects us differently. If it is being put up in the Spring, they will use X amount of acres for their equipment. We won't be able to seed that part of the land that year - we will have lost that amount of grain for our cows. Then you take the summer, we'll have spend hours upon hours buying seed, working the fields 2 times, sowing the seed, picking rocks, fertilizer, spraying up to 2-3 times for weeds and bugs. The poles get put up and all this time, acres of crop will be lost, money and effort gets thrown to the wayside. Winter would of course be the best, but a farmer has to wonder what kind of top soil will be left for us to farm on. We farm miles of land along Co. Rd. 17 so we will be dealing with a many power line post. Another thing what if the cows have new issues that come up, we have to hire people to figure out the problem that we never had before. Per acre farmers use less electricity then a city of houses so why dump this on us.

Please reconsider, find another way so it doesn't drag across the state and onto precious farm land. Stay on the I-94 route, town people can move easier then a farmer and most will only be around the high power line for a third or half the time.

Thank You,
Sincerely,



Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:13 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020

Hi
I just sent you an e-mail but I never wrote what section I am inplease help remove us from this power line.
Tile H-8 #5 & #8

Thanks,
Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

fyi

From: Lexa, Caroline A [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:00 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Lexa, Caroline A
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:56 PM
To: 'stephanie.strength@usda.gov'
Subject: EIS Scoping Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

Please ensure that the larger picture is addressed and a pragmatic approach is taken when reviewing the scope of the CAPX2020 project. I am a homeowner living near the proposed Brookings CAPX2020 line. The following are my families concerns:

* If there is an alternative plan that is less costly to rate payers, such as using local power and conservation, please look at this option seriously. Sometimes a simpler and less costly approach just makes sense.

* With the recession, people around me seem much more consciences about the money they spend on energy consumption. People are cutting back and being careful about their energy use. Please use recent forecasts that take into account the changing attitudes towards energy consumption!

* Please include the Brookings line with the scope, this is one large project. It's all connected.

* Please consider not only the visual impact but also the property value impact and the potential increased risk for cancer when reviewing the cost/benefits of this project.

* Please consider alternatives, such as local power generation and a no build option for the entire project.

* Please review the extent to which CAPX2020 will facilitate more coal generation and the environmental increasing coal generation.

I-266-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I am a parent of two very young children living on a farm that has been in our family for over 100 years. I don't want to have to choose between exposing myself to electromagnetic fields and leaving the farm we all love so much. But even if my particular family isn't considered, I'm just not sure this project makes sense. Is this really the best option? The least expensive? The most efficient? What if there's a better idea that would accomplish the power needs without disrupting so many lives? Couldn't we product wind power here? It's awfully windy at our house on the farm. Please consider the big picture, the entire project. Is this really the best way?

Best Wishes,

Caroline, Mike, Inga (age 3) and Vlad (age 2) Lexa

Webster, MN

This e-mail, including attachments, may include confidential and/or proprietary information, and may be used only by the person or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient or his or her authorized agent, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by replying to this message and delete this e-mail immediately.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Chris Nagel [mailto:nage0049@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 8:13 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Powerlines proposal

Hi Gentlemen,

Please consider my thoughts below.

Thanks.
Chris Nagel

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Nagel <nage0049@gmail.com>
Date: June 30, 2009 2:10:31 AM GMT+02:00
To: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
Subject: Powerlines proposal

Hello Ms. Strength,

I-267-001

I am concerned by the 345 kV power lines, which are planned to be installed or expanded along the stretch of Mississippi between Alma and LaCrosse, WI. The concerns I have are aesthetic and concern safety. It is important to me that the project not contribute to the loss of the wilderness area along these backwaters. Is there a way to bury the lines, or otherwise minimize their impact? Is there a way to not locate them in the very visible Mississippi channel?

In terms of safety, I encourage the use of highest industry standards of safety. I will be content paying for this additional service.

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email:

I-267-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line and to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-267-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-267-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

nage0049@gmail.com

430 Dacota,
Winona, MN

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email: nage0049@gmail.com
Phone: (0049) 211 9853 671

CapX2020

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

Delivering electricity you can rely on

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville WI and another alternative organizations

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

The fact that citizens Do have
Some good ALTERNATIVE Ideas
Listen to EM with the idea
of USING them instead of
just listening & falling on ears
that shout out the POSSIBILITY
Ya know maybe just maybe there
are some idea other than just
you
Please LISTEN

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture
 ☒ Residential
 ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial
 ☐ Industrial
 ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

This area was zoned Exclusive Ag - for a reason - to keep it as it is! A lot of time & effort went into creating these zoning laws and that should & does exclude a Sub station. What good & what impetus will this show to anyone if your big powerful corporation comes along & says sorry we want it - we get it - Doesn't anything have the legal status to be honored as what is - standy? ON Hwy 54 - proposed substation south of us. In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

This is agriculture and our home! I'm a nurse and work VERY HARD every day to maintain a healthy body. We have worked hard to maintain clean air, and a quality of life style by ~~maintaining~~ keeping the area to a country like setting. We have worked as a neighborhood to keeping housing ~~at a minimum~~ ~~we wanted~~ & urban sprawl to a minimum so we can keep that quality AND be ABLE to Afford to stay on the family farm financially. This project DOES NOT PROMOTE a quality healthy lifestyle regardless of your inconclusive studies. It's not natural for the human body to be exposed to EMF's.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-268-001

Yes in explanation
But no in putting, acting, thinking and thought
to other very sound and worthwhile Alternate ideas
or plans. If you want to know why there often
seems to be a low number of concerned citizens
at some of the meetings or comments its because

I-268-002

people feel like no matter what they say or
do the outcome is still going to be the
same. Come on please LISTEN to some of
these ideas that JUST MAY WORK. Push some
of the STATUS QUO - always done like this
I TRY something out of the box. Remember
the wheel - good invention but as time goes
on there have been alot of new technology. For
example why can't this line run along the

I-268-003

Please tell us how to reach you. freeway system? No one has
a good answer to that. If it
still seems like a viable
solution. ~~But~~ Just because
CONTACT INFORMATION
Name: Deb Congdon
Representing (Optional):
Mailing Address: WI 6618 State Rd 54 a citizen thought it - well it
City: Galesville WI 54630 State: not the Zip Code:
Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-582- considered?
4476

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified
when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-268-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-268-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages

and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-268-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-269-001

Our land may be used for wind-producing electricity. I don't want electric line's in the way.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wesley Dubbels

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 5831 51ST NE

City: Rochester State: Mn Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-282-2991

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-269-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list.

Which meeting did you attend? none

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-269-002

What do they do ~~not~~ when the crops are
growing and the line needs repair?

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I-269-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7/21/09

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CapX2020

Dear Stephanie Strength,


We wish to state our strong opposition to the proposed CapX2020 transmission lines proposed on 50th Street West in Webster, Minnesota. This line will run near our property. During these times of economical stress and loss of jobs, our families have needed to move in together to share expenses and are still trying to save our home from forecloser. The installation of this line would not only devalue our property but make us not want to live near it. Our family has enough health issues with out adding more. With the devaluation of our property after the addition of the line we feel we will not be able to sell it. We feel like we have been trapped by the proposal of this line. We are also frustrated that with the new proposed alternate route for this line, we were informed by concerned neighbors and not by the agents putting this line through. We ask that you reconsider this matter during these times of economical stress, and realize the land devaluation is a huge issue for those involved.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, we ask that you find an alternate route that will have less impact on our property at 4925 Elmore Ave. Webster, MN.

Sincerely,



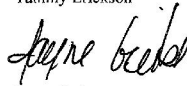
Benjamin Erickson



Tammy Erickson



Timothy Geibe



Jayne Geibe

I-270-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Glen Haag

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 18437 Hwy 14

City: Lewiston State: MN Zip Code: 55952

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

It would be nice if you could follow property lines, instead of breaking up parcels.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Sensitive areas include dairies that are very close to the proposed lines

I-271-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crosse, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-272-007 No. The actual "need" for this project has never been proven, especially when recent usage data (2005-09) is not being considered by Excel. The fact is, usage in these years has declined!

I-272-008 Transporting power such a long distance is not an efficient way to provide service.

I-272-009 Many of the proposed routes are not efficient - they do not take the shortest, quickest, logical route.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Doug Kleese
Representing (Optional): Holden Township Kenyon MN
Mailing Address: 4667 Co. 30 Blvd
City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-649-1783

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-272-003

My wife and I have young kids in our family who play and work in the proposed area. There are many well documented safety issues to living, working and playing near these transmission lines.

I-272-004

Being concerned about electrical shock when getting off farm equipment on a daily basis concerns me.

I-272-005

Destroying the viewshed of ^{our} township greatly concerns me!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-272-006

In our area we have a wonderful natural wildlife habitat along production agriculture. These two have co-existed beautifully. The swath that these transmission lines would create would hugely disrupt both of these.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Multiple grassroots meetings held in our local community

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-272-001 Is there really a need for increased electrical power supply in our country?

I-272-002 When agriculture has not created the need, why does agriculture have to "pay the price" by the disruption + destroying of farmland have to to transport it?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-272-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-272-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will also be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-272-008

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-009

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

No, purpose/need

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ROGER LACHER, H & V LACHER TRUST

Representing (Optional): WISCOY HEADWATERS

Mailing Address: 30960 HEADWATERS DRIVE

City: RUSHFORD State: MN 55971 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☒ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: FORESTRY

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-273-001

Depending on routing could impact
native prairie propagation, rare
calcareous fen, organic livestock
crop & produce leased land.
Wilson Twp. Sec. 34, Wiscos Twp. Sec. 3, 4, 9, 10

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

all are important. I grow up in
a farmhouse bedroom within 50 yards
(closest residence in miles) from Dairyland-
Xcel East-West line @ Wilson/Wiscos twp.
border - the corridor affects everything.

I-273-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands, and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? WINONA, MN FORUM 6/29/09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ ① Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ ② Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ ⑤ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ ④ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ ③ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ ⑥ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

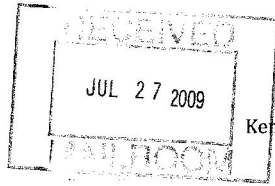
What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

①, ⑤, ② in much greater detail. The "Driftless Brevegia" has no need for "imported power", especially with easily attained 25% conservation efforts. The Kilowatts are destined for the big footprints (carbon) out East.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-273-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.



Mary Lazaretti
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition for the proposed high-voltage transmission lines being routed through Holden Township. After my youngest child moved out a few years ago, my husband and I couldn't wait to leave city life behind and retire to the peaceful and serene countryside of southern Minnesota where he had grown up. After nearly 15 years of searching, we came across the property for sale. We immediately knew that this was the place where we would want to live. The 200+ acres of quiet, pristine woodland combined with the character of the late 19th century farmhouse created the perfect environment to lay down our roots for this new era of our lives, an era that we both envisioned being our happiest. The property has a valley that harbors a stream and a wide variety of wildlife that comforts both of us, particularly in this age of environmental decline. Knowing that we are doing something to help with preservation and to save the world that we leave to our children is very important to us.

When we first moved down to the area, we began our work restoring the 1890's farmhouse, paying meticulous attention to keeping the historic character of the building. The farmhouse is almost complete and we are planning to move into the home later this year. Needless to say when we heard CapX 2020 was planning to run high-voltage transmission lines directly over the top of our home, our hearts and spirits were crushed. The anguish that we feel stems not only from the undoing of the past 2½ years spent restoring the farmhouse, it runs far deeper than that. Moving to the countryside, finding this quiet, unspoiled sanctuary and transforming it into a home has truly been the realization of our lifelong dreams. So to say that the proposed transmission lines undo several years of hard work is a vast understatement. It undoes the fulfillment of years of aspirations. Unfortunately, at our age we don't have another 15 years in us to spend looking for another dream spot and refurbishing it.

When there is already an existing corridor available along Highway 52 for a utility such as this, we cannot understand why CapX2020 has chosen a route that adds nearly 17 miles to the proposed route, encumbers small farms for those farmers already struggling to maintain their way of life, and razes sensitive forest and wetland areas in a part of the state where these natural resources would be best preserved.

Sincerely,
Mary Lazaretti

I-274-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-274-001

[illegible]

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representing (Optional):

City: KENYON

State: MN

Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5608

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☒ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

ONE OF THE CORRIDORES (HOLDEN TOWNSHIP
50th AVE (44755) GOES RIGHT OVER
OUR HOUSE

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? CANNON FALLS & LECHESENT

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☒ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☒ Historic and cultural sites

☒ Radio or television interference

☒ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☐ Other: PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Mark Lenway
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern: *STEPHANIE A. STRENGTH*

It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-275-001

I-275-002

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO₂ SO₂ NO_x and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-275-003

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.
- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.
- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

I-275-004

I-275-005

I-275-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-275-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-006

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.
- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

I-275-007

Sincerely,
Mark Lenway

I-275-006

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

July 23, 2009

Department of Commerce
Scott Ek
MN Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101- 2198

Att: Cap X 2020 transmission line

Dear Mr. Ek,

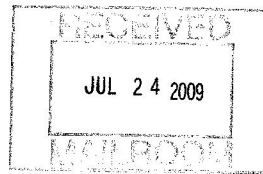
I-277-001 | QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020

CAP X 2020 Would carry coal generated electricity, hundreds of miles with a 20% compounded loss to an area that is producing electricity from wind projects and proposing new wind projects to be built.

Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous and solid waste products.

Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy which generates the majority of its electricity from coal (which spews global warming gases into the atmosphere) could easily be a big loser if a strong climate-change bill passes in Washington. A strong climate-change law could dramatically decrease the value of hundreds of millions of dollars of Minnesota Power's and Xcel Energy's investment in coal-burning infrastructure.

Minnesota Power now reports that money invested in wind power produces cheaper electricity than money invested in coal power and money invested in energy-efficient buildings is more than paid for by energy savings.



I-277-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:

- I-277-002 Why do we need additional transmission lines?
EXEL'S has had a shrinking demand for electricity from the year 2006
DAIRYLAND POWER'S representative stated "there is already too much electricity being produced by the new wind projects in Southern Minnesota and they need to move it to other locations. We can't use it all."
—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and La Crosse, Wis. **WHY THE NEW LINE?**

- I-277-003 **GEOLOGIC IMPACT:** Holden Township —a proposed line route -- is a fragile area with a large underground limestone cavern.
A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling Township and Richland Township Minnesota in 1986. — A witness post sign can be found on 210th Street East, Wheeling Township verifying the study — The study was to determine how big the cavern was, if it contained natural gas, and if the limestone was solid or fractured. The study - project was abandon when the large cavern was found to have large limestone faults. During the governmental study family water wells were destroyed when the limestone faults shifted. Heavy equipment and earth pounding was used during the study. Mineral Rights were purchased from some land owners.

- VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES:** we have a rolling country farming community and the large poles would ruin the view, disrupting and destroying our rural landscape. A swath 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state will remove woodland habitat and farmland from our State's precious natural resources.

- PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES:** No people should have a line build on their homestead, for their health and safety. Electric and Magnetic fields still have unknown effects on all living creatures.

I-277-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-001.

I-277-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-004.

I-277-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

LAND USE AGRICULTURE: I have worked for thirty years to build my farmland. I have installed tile, build terraces, with the goal to stop erosion and run off. Farmland is not a renewable resource we need to protect every field, every acre. Holden township and Goodhue County are both dedicated to keep our family farms and our agricultural base. We do not want the transmission lines, as those proposed by the Cap X 2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.

I-277-007 |

I-277-008 | Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area and drive down property values, and cause problems for farmers.

I-277-009 | **WATER RESOURCES:** Most of the family water wells are shallow and will be disturbed with the digging of large holes and limestone fracturing,

I-277-010 | **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: RAPTORES:** Hawks nest in my woods on my farm, in Holden township. They thrill everyone who hears their call or sees them fly. They are majestic and should not be disturbed.

I-277-011 | **TELEVISION INTERFERENCE:** The large poles will interrupt the poor television we now receive Also there will be interference with GPS systems..

I-277-012 | **NOISE:** We enjoy the quite in the country. We can hear the birds, insects, and the trees rustle. We do not want to hear the mum of electricity lines.

PROPOSED WIND PROJECTS: Three companies are proposing wind projects for the Holden, Kenyon and Wheeling Township areas.

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



Norma Monroe
2162 HWY 246 BLVD
Kenyon MN 55946
Phone 507-789-5497

I-277-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-008

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line as well as potential impacts to agricultural and visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil as well as water resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-011

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-277-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.